

Application Number 10/693,011  
Responsive to Office Action mailed May 7, 2007

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A programmer for an implantable medical device, the programmer comprising:

a programmer housing;

an internal antenna mounted on a first circuit board within the programmer housing; and

a display device mounted on a second circuit board within the programmer housing,

wherein the first circuit board includes a substantially contiguous ground plane layer interrupted by a plurality of gaps.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the gaps divide the ground plane layer into a plurality of interconnected conductive ground plane regions.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the gaps divide the adjacent ground plane regions to disrupt flow of eddy currents within the ground plane layer.

Claim 4 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, wherein each of the gaps extends outward from a central region of the ground plane layer.

Claim 5 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the first circuit board includes an electrostatic discharge layer defining a peripheral conductive layer and a central aperture.

Claim 6 (Original): The programmer of claim 5, wherein the internal antenna defines an aperture, and the central aperture of the electrostatic discharge layer substantially approximates a size and shape of the aperture of the antenna.

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**Claim 7 (Original):** The programmer of claim 5, wherein the electrostatic discharge layer is a first electrostatic discharge layer formed on a first side of the ground plane layer, the programmer further comprising a second electrostatic discharge layer formed on second side of the ground plane layer.

**Claim 8 (Original):** The programmer of claim 7, wherein the second electrostatic discharge layer defines a second central aperture that substantially approximates a size and shape of the central aperture of the first electrostatic discharge layer.

**Claim 9 (Original):** The programmer of claim 1, wherein the antenna comprises a loop-like antenna shape that defines an aperture.

**Claim 10 (Currently Amended):** The programmer of claim 1, further comprising a battery bay formed within ~~the~~ an aperture of the antenna.

**Claim 11 - 20 (Cancelled).**

**Claim 21 (Previously Presented):** The programmer of claim 1, wherein each of the gaps has a width in a range of approximately 0.2 to approximately 3.0 mm.

**Claim 22 (Cancelled).**

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**Claim 23 (Currently Amended):** A programmer for an implantable medical device, the programmer comprising:

a programmer housing;

an internal antenna mounted on a first circuit board within the programmer housing, wherein the internal antenna has a loop-like structure and defines a first aperture, and the first circuit board includes at least one signal plane with an electrostatic discharge layer defining a second aperture in substantially overlapping alignment with the first aperture; and

a display device mounted on a second circuit board within the programmer housing, wherein the first circuit board includes a substantially contiguous ground plane layer interrupted by a plurality of gaps.

**Claim 24 (Previously Presented):** The programmer of claim 23, wherein the gaps divide the ground plane layer into a plurality of interconnected conductive ground plane regions.

**Claim 25 (Currently Amended):** The programmer of claim 23, wherein the gaps divide the adjacent ground plane regions to disrupt flow of eddy currents within the ground plane layer.

**Claim 26 (Previously Presented):** The programmer of claim 23, wherein each of the gaps extends outward from a central region of the ground plane layer.

**Claim 27 (Previously Presented):** The programmer of claim 23, wherein the electrostatic discharge layer substantially approximates a size and shape of the first aperture of the internal antenna.

**Claim 28 (Currently Amended):** The programmer of claim 23, wherein the electrostatic discharge layer is a first electrostatic discharge layer formed on a first side of the ground plane layer, the programmer further comprising a second electrostatic discharge layer formed on a second side of the ground plane layer.

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**Claim 29 (Previously Presented):** The programmer of claim 28, wherein the second electrostatic discharge layer defines a third aperture that substantially approximates a size and shape of the second aperture of the first electrostatic discharge layer.

**Claim 30 (Previously Presented):** The programmer of claim 23, further comprising a battery bay formed within the first aperture of the internal antenna.

**Claim 31 (Previously Presented):** The programmer of claim 23, wherein the first circuit board includes telemetry circuitry for communication with a medical device via the antenna.

**Claim 32 (Previously Presented):** The programmer of claim 23, wherein each of the gaps has a width in a range of approximately 0.2 to approximately 3.0 mm.